

Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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P 101310Z JUL 76 ZFF-4

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8241

S E C R E T USUN 2830

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UG, IS

SUBJ: LETTER TO SECRETARY OF STATE FROM UN SECRETARY GENERAL

REF: USUN 2803

1. THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE FLAP OVER WHAT WALDHEIM SAID OR DID NOT SAY WITH RESPECT TO ENTEBBE INCIDENT. ONCE AGAIN HE SHOT TOO FAST FROM THE HIP AND HAS BEEN TRYING EVER SINCE TO GET HIS BULLETS BACK. FOLLOWING LETTER, RECEIVED BY US FOR TRANSMITTAL TO SECSTATE, SPEAKS FOR ITSELF.

2. TEXT OF LETTER AS FOLLOWS:

A. QUOTE DEAR HENRY, IN THE EVENT THERE SHOULD BE FURTHER DISCUSSION IN THE UNITED STATES ABOUT MY OWN ROLE IN CONNEXION WITH THE RECENT HIJACKING OF AN AIR FRANCE PLAN TO UGANDA AND THE ISRAELI OPERATION TO RESCUE THE HOSTAGES, I WANTED TO LET YOU HAVE THE TEXT OF THE CLARIFICATION OF MY POSITION WHICH I ISSUED JULY 8 JUST AFTER MY RETURN FROM AFRICA.

B. QUOTE NEEDLESS TO SAY, IT WAS PARTICULARLY PAINFUL FOR ME TO READ THAT SOME AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS HAD CALLED FOR MY RESIGNATION BASED ON MY POSITION IN THIS MATTER. I REALIZE, OF COURSE, THAT PERHAPS I SHOULD BE PLEASED TO JOIN YOUR DISTINGUISHED COMPANY INsofar AS THE ATTITUDE OF SOME SUCH ORGANIZ-

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ATIONS IS CONCERNED.

C. QUOTE AS YOU ARE AWARE, I RESPONDED QUICKLY AND POSITIVELY TO EVERY REQUEST I RECEIVED, INCLUDING YOUR OWN (WHICH REACHED ME IN UGANDA JULY 1) TO TRY TO HELP SECURE THE RELEASE OF THE HOSTAGES, AND IN PARTICULAR TO TRY TO GET THE DEADLINE LIFTED. I DID SO IMMEDIATELY IN A TELEGRAM WHICH I SENT FROM MOZAMBIQUE EARLY JULY 2 TO PRESIDENT AMIN AND IN TWO PERSONAL MEETINGS I HAD WITH HIM DURING THE FOLLOWING 24 HOURS AFTER I ARRIVED IN MAURITIUS FOR THE OAU SUMMIT MEETING.

D. QUOTE MUCH OF THE CURRENT DIFFICULTY ARISES FROM A WIRE SERVICE REPORT CARRIED FROM CAIRO BY REUTERS, ALLEGING I HAD ACCUSED THE ISRAELIS OF QUOTE FLAGRANT AGGRESSION END QUOTE. IT IS SOME CONSOLATION THAT SUBSEQUENTLY, ON EXAMINING THE TAPED RECORDING OF MY REMARKS, REUTERS ISSUED AN APOLOGY FOR DISTRIBUTING A TOTALLY ERRONEOUS REPORT. THEY DID ISSUE A CORRECTED STATEMENT WHICH INDICATED THAT IN RESPONSE TO A NARROW QUESTION ABOUT THE LEGALITY OF THE OPERATION I HAD SAID THE ISRAELI LANDING CONSTITUTED A VIOLATION OF UGANDAN SOVEREIGNTY. I MADE ABSOLUTELY NO VALUE JUDGMENT AS TO WHETHER OR NOT THE ISRAELI OPERATION WAS JUSTIFIED BY THE CIRCUMSTANCES AND BELIEVE THIS IS PROPERLY A QUESTION FOR THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO DECIDE. YOU KNOW, OF COURSE, HOW DIFFICULT IT IS FOR A CORRECTION TO CANCEL OUT AN ERROR OF THIS KIND.

E. QUOTE WITH REGARD TO INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM, I HAVE CONSISTENTLY CONDEMNED SUCH ACTS, AND YOU MAY RECALL THAT I TOOK A PERSONAL INITIATIVE IN SEPTEMBER 1972 IN INSCRIBING AN ITEM ON THE AGENDA OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEALING WITH THIS PROBLEM.

F. QUOTE MY GREATEST HOPE NOW IS THAT FROM THIS MOST RECENT TRAGIC INCIDENT WILL COME SOME NEW AND EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL MEANS OF COPING WITH THE RAVAGES OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM.

G. QUOTE WITH BEST WISHES AND WARM REGARDS, KURT
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WALDHEIM END QUOTE.

3. REFTEL (USUN 2803) FIRST PARAGRAPH LATER CORRECTED TO READ: QUOTE SECRETARY-GENERAL KURT WALDHEIM ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT TODAY (8 JULY): END QUOTE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECRETARY GENERAL, AIRCRAFT HIJACKING, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, TERRORISTS, RESCUE OPERATIONS, CAT-A
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976USUNN02830
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P840105-0107
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760770/aaaacjgn.tel
Line Count: 113
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 76 USUN NEW YORK 2830, 76 USUN NEW YORK 2803
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 MAY 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <06 OCT 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LETTER TO SECRETARY OF STATE FROM UN SECRETARY GENERAL
TAGS: PFOR, PSDC, US, IS, UG, UN, AIR FRANCE, (WALDHEIM, KURT), (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006